

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2011

Members present: Art Turley, Chair; Anne Kemper, Margaret Craven, Judy Gervais, Jennifer GendronCarlton, John Painter, Judy Head, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Director of LPL; Eleanor Cummings, APL Board

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Mr. Speer gave the Directors Report. The position of Deputy Director has been eliminated, consistent with other departments in the City government. Given the resignation and departure of Ellen Gilliam, Mr. Speer and Technical Services Librarian Karen Jones are reviewing applications for Adult Services Librarian, which will replace the previous position of Deputy Director/Reference Librarian. LPL will participate in a statewide library program, "Food Not Fines" during the week of May 9-14. LPL will also participate in a community Art Walk being organized by LA Arts and Gallery 5; these events will take place on the last Friday of the months of May through September. The recent LA Film Festival (LAFF) was quite successful; extra chairs had to be provided for the screenings in Callahan Hall.

There followed a discussion of DEC, the Downtown Education Collaborative, which is composed of the four local colleges (Bates, USM/LAC, CMCC, and Kaplan) along with LPL and Lewiston Adult Education. Three years ago, DEC received considerable financial support from grants and was able to open a storefront space at 219 Lisbon Street; these are now harder to obtain for the sustained operation of the program. If DEC loses its storefront on Lisbon Street, its director could possibly work out office space in LPL. The involvement of Kaplan students and the Harward Center at Bates was reviewed.

Mr. Speer noted that circulation numbers were stronger this past March than one year ago.

The Chair reported that under the current circumstances, the presentation of the LPL budget at City Hall three nights earlier went fairly well. Mr. Turley, Mr. Isaacson and Mr. Painter accompanied Mr. Speer that evening. It appeared that the Councilors were not inclined to include monies for a new microfiche unit or for new chairs. We considered using Endowment funds for those items, but it was eventually moved, seconded, and passed, that those funds would be reserved for books, not machines or furniture. Use of funds from the Friends of LPL was mentioned as a possibility for the chairs.

Ms. GendronCarlton discussed the recent meeting of the joint APL&LPL sub-committee. It was noted that currently, APL is open seven more hours per week than LPL. It was recommended that the hours of both libraries be posted on the doors of both libraries and on both websites. In regard to Sunday hours, it was noted that the libraries in Brunswick, Scarborough, Camden, and Rockland were open on Sunday afternoons throughout the school year. Portland and Bangor have no such hours. Mr. Speer felt that staffing did not appear to be a major concern, because such mechanisms for weekend (Saturday) coverage already exist.

The committee felt that both libraries should offer simultaneous Sunday hours rather than having such hours on alternate weekends. A survey of current users was suggested as a way to take the process further. One possible concern was that Sunday hours could be used (or abused) as a means of weekend childcare. Another meeting is to be scheduled.

The painting by William Manning "Tocsin," which had suffered from some penciled graffiti at its location outside the entrance to Callahan Hall, was inspected and skillfully repaired by Nina A. Roth-Wells. The options at this point are 1) to leave the painting in its current location, 2) glaze it for protection, 3) isolate it with ropes, or 4) change its location. We will consult further with Bill Low of the Bates Art Museum and with the artist himself.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Walworth, Secretary